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ABSTRACT

Navajo Tribal Government is explained in a booklet for ninth grade civics students. The booklet emphasizes basic information drawn from the Navajo Tribal Code and includes a pre-post test and teacher, group and individual activities which stress finding, organizing, and communicating information. The three branches of tribal government--legislative, executive and judicial--are explained. Black and white illustrations and special typographical features help define relationships among the government agencies. Information is presented in outline and question-answer formats with large print. Photographs of past and present tribal chairmen and a detailed map of the Navajo reservation supplement the booklet. (LFL)

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Focus On
NAVAJO TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Sylvia Pacheco

Illustrations by Charlotte Joe

Department of Curriculum Materials Development
Central Consolidated School District No. 22
Shiprock, New Mexico
1984

The main purpose of this booklet is to help students acquire knowledge of and appreciation for Navajo Tribal Government.

Government textbooks for ninth grade students focus primarily on the roles of national, state, and local governments. For the Navajo student, local government is Tribal Government and, therefore, affects their lives even more significantly than city government.

The booklet emphasizes a basic knowledge of the subject and includes a pre-post test as well as teacher, group, and individual activities which stress basic skills in finding, comprehending, organizing, evaluating, and communicating information and ideas.

The Navajo Tribal Code was the main source of information in the preparation of this booklet. This is not an in-depth study; rather, it is designed to give students a basic understanding of Tribal Government.

This booklet is dedicated to the students who use it as a challenge to further their interest in Tribal Government.

Photographs of Tribal Chairmen purchased from Navajo Tribal Museum.

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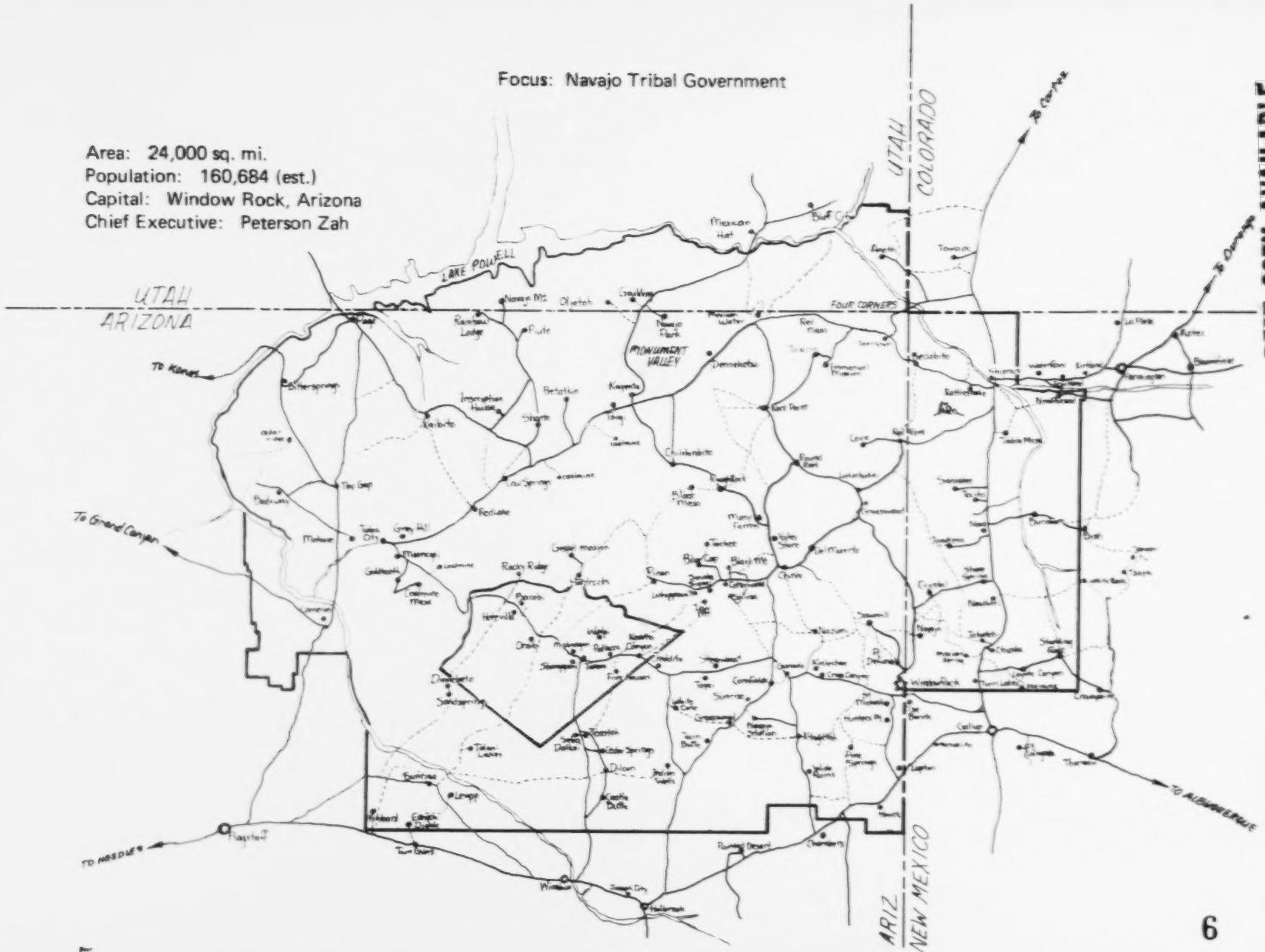
Focus: Navajo Tribal Government

Area: 24,000 sq. mi.
Population: 160,684 (est.)
Capital: Window Rock, Arizona
Chief Executive: Peterson Zah



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What is NAVAJO TRIBAL GOVERNMENT?

It is ☆ A system of local government on the Navajo reservation

☆ With a Legislative Body – called a TRIBAL COUNCIL – made up of 88 members called Councilmen who are responsible to the people from their districts and Chapters

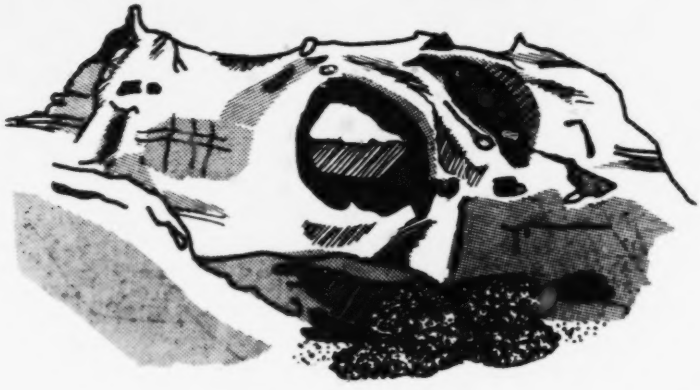
To → 1. Keep them informed of the activities of the council

And → 2. Keep the council aware of the feelings and needs of the people in the communities.

☆ With an Executive Body – headed by a Tribal Chairman & Vice-Chairman

☆ With a Judicial System – responsible for
1. maintaining law and order and
2. administering justice on the reservation

Where? Its headquarters are in
Window Rock, Arizona - Tsé ghá hoodzání'
("the rock with a hole in it")



Has been The center of administration since 1930

in which 88 Tribal Council delegates meet 4 times a year in July, October, January, April or May – in the octagonal Council House

To determine policy and procedures for the Dine'

Focus: Navajo Tribal Council -Present
Elected November 2, 1982

Andrew Benallie ..... Forest Lake
Nelson Gorman, Jr. ..... Chinle
Guy Gorman, Sr. ..... Chinle
Larry Beck ..... Pinon
Billy Johnson ..... Rough Rock
Emmett Bia, Sr. ..... Many Farms
Samuel Yazzie ..... Tsaile-Wheatfields
Robert E. Salabye ..... Nazlini
Kellywood Harvey ..... Round Rock
Richard K. Begay ..... Tselani
Roman Bitsuie ..... Hardrock
Wallace C. Archer ..... Lukachukai
James Ashike ..... Blue - Gap
John Perry, Jr. ..... Becenti
Jeffery Henry ..... Lake Valley
Thomas Barbone ..... Littlewater
Bobby J. Willeto ..... Nahodishgish
Frank C. Willeto ..... Pueblo Pintado
Charlie Toledo ..... Torreon
Roy Vandever ..... Baca-Prewitt
Robert Ortiz ..... Breadsprings
John K. James ..... Chilchiltah
Johnny R. Thompson ..... Pinedale
Charley Long, Sr. ..... Mariano Lake
Willis Peterson ..... Rocksprings
Allen S. King ..... Huerfano
Henry R. Hesuse ..... Nageezi
Tony Largo ..... Ojo Encino
Jerry Pino, Sr. ..... Ramah
George Platero ..... Canoncito
Frank Guerro ..... Alamo
Manuel Shirley ..... Dilcon
Dudley Yazzie ..... Indian Wells
David J. Tsosie ..... Jeddito
Marlin Scott, Sr. ..... Teestoh
Marshall Plummer ..... Coyote Canyon
Kenneth Howard ..... Mexican Springs
Benjamin Henry ..... Naschitti
James T. Nahkai, Jr. ..... Tohatchi
Julius Johnson ..... Cornfields
Ambrose Shepherd ..... Ganado
Frank Gishey, Sr. ..... Lower Greasewood
Benjamin Curtis ..... Kinlichee
Jimmie E. Nelson ..... Klagetoh

Harold Noble ..... Steamboat
Thomas J. Boyd ..... Crystal
Robert Natonabah, Sr. ..... Fort Defiance
Lennie Robertson ..... Fort Defiance
Ernest Hubbell ..... Houck, Lupton
Jim Sam ..... Oaksprings
Henry Nez ..... Sawmil
Edith C. Yazzie ..... St. Michaels
Albert Ross, Jr. ..... St. Michaels
Jonas Mustach ..... Mexican Water
Johnny Descheney ..... Rock Point
Dean Paul, Sr. ..... Sweetwater
Wallace D. McGilbert ..... Teecnospos
Robert R. Billie ..... Aneth
Thomas J. Yazzie ..... Two Grey Hills
Harry Tome ..... Red Valley
Leonard Haskie ..... Sanostee
Donald Benally ..... Shiprock
Wallace Davis ..... Burnham
Morris V. Johnson ..... Nenahnezad
Reynold Harrison ..... Upper Fruitland
Frank John, Sr. ..... Beclabito
Paul Y. George ..... Hogback
Bobby M. Charley ..... Cudeii
Thomas E. Atcitty ..... Nataani Nez
Jerry R. Begay ..... Coppermine
Adolph June, Jr. ..... Kaibeto
Tommy M. Tsosie ..... LeChee
Joe Dayzie ..... Tonalea
Sam Y. Webb, Jr. ..... Inscription House
Willie Greyeyes ..... Navajo Mountain
Stanley Yazzie ..... Shonto
Benjamin R. Tsosie ..... Bodaway
Byron Huskon ..... Cameron
Tincer T. Nez, Sr. ..... Coalmine Mesa
Richard George ..... Tuba City
Frank W. Bradley ..... Tuba City
Hoover Schultz ..... Birdsprings
Jim Store ..... Leupp
Freddie Howard ..... Tolani Lake
Charley C. Billy ..... Chilchinbeto
Harvey McKerry ..... Dennehotso
Albert K. Bailey ..... Kayenta
Jessie Black ..... Olijato

Here's how it works

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH – known as the TRIBAL COUNCIL is kept busy with matters such as:

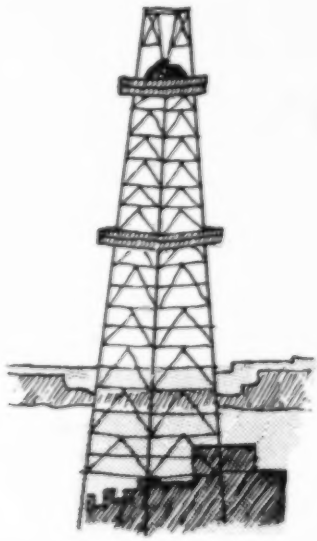
1. Enacting ordinances
2. Establishing policies and programs
3. Deciding how money from resources will be spent
4. Approving budgets of different committees
5. Working in committes studying special areas of business

For Example

THE Resources Committee

8 members - appointed by the Chairman to:

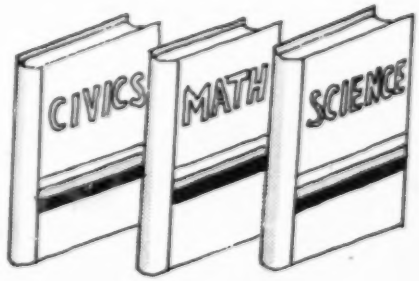
1. Study and consider all matters pertaining to natural resources



THE Education Committee

5 members - appointed by the Chairman to:

1. Advise tribe on all matters of Education



THE Budget and Finance Committee

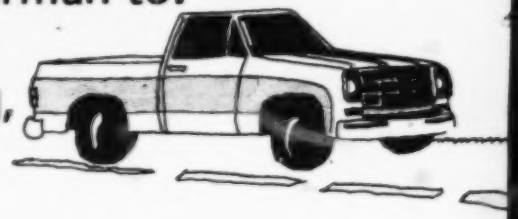
13 members - appointed by the Chairman to:

1. Review budget requests
2. Make recommendations to Tribal Council
3. Develop and implement financial policies, plans and procedures

THE Transportation and Roads Committee

5 members - appointed by the Chairman to:

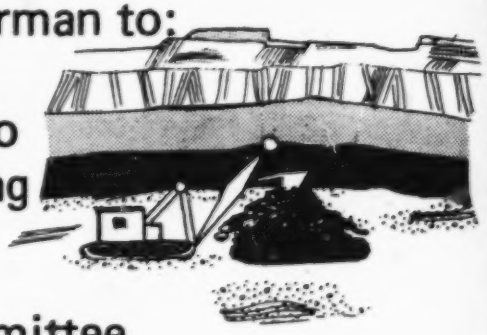
1. Study and consider all matters relating to roads, road planning, construction and maintenance.



THE Labor Committee

5 members - appointed by the Chairman to:

1. Study and consider all matters related to labor involving Navajo people whether living or working in or out of the Navajo Nation



THE Health, Alcoholism, Welfare Committee

8 members - appointed by the Chairman to:

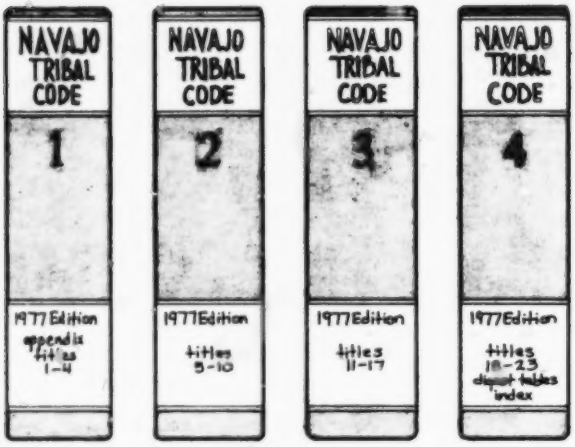
1. Gather information and present plans and proposals in areas of health, alcoholism and welfare

THE Economic and Planning Committee

7 members - appointed by the Chairman to:

1. Create policy pertaining to the orderly planning and development of communities on Navajo lands
2. Regulate commerce and trading practices

THE NAVAJO TRIBAL CODE



Sets forth the powers of

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Which include

1. Presiding over the Tribal Council
2. Representing the Navajo Nation
3. Being a Tribal Ambassador
4. Appointing Committees
5. Heading executive departments and divisions

AND

THE Advisory Committee ← Most Powerful

18 members from the Tribal Council who handle day-to-day operations of the Navajo Tribe and act for, and on behalf of, the Navajo Tribal Council, when it is not in session.

THEY

ALSO Work very closely with the most important member of Navajo Tribal government

THE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN who is head of

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

THE Tribal Chairman

IS → 1. elected every 4 years (in November)

HAS → 2. no limitation on the number of terms in office

MUST → 3. be 35 yrs.of age

4. be a member of the Navajo Tribe
5. be a resident of the reservation for 4 yrs. prior to election
6. speak Navajo and English in addition to being able to read and write
7. have served as a council member or chapter officer or land board member or within the Navajo Tribal organization.

To help the Chairman is

THE VICE CHAIRMAN

Who serves as:

1. Liaison officer
2. Advisor to the Chairman and Council
3. Chairman, if the Chairman is unable to perform his duties

AND

THE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

Who is responsible for:

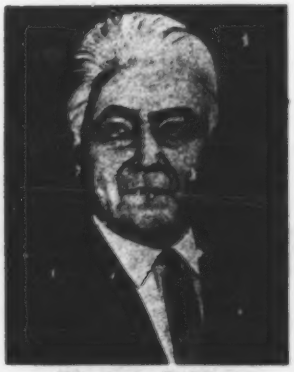
1. Efficient coordination of all Tribal departments
2. Preparing plans for improvement of Tribal organization
3. Supervising the preparation of the Tribal budget
4. Executing contracts, leases, etc.
5. Assisting in coordinating agenda

Plus

Other staff members who serve as:
Administrators
Assistants
Directors
Secretaries
Auditors

Henry Chee Dodge
1923-28/1942-46

Deshna Chischillige
1928-32



Thomas Dodge
1932-36

Henry Taliman
1937-38

Jacob Morgan
1938-42

Sam Ahkeah
1946-50/1951-54

Paul Jones
1955-60

Raymond Nakai
1961-68

Peter MacDonald
1969-78/1979-82

Peterson Zah
1983-

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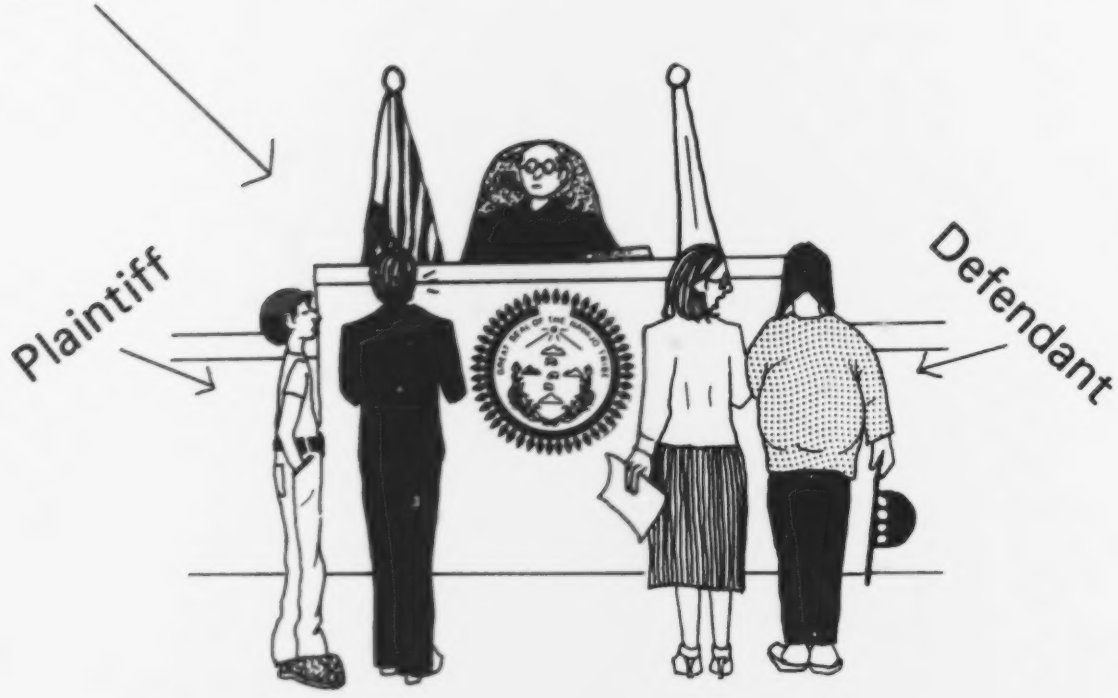
AND THE THIRD BRANCH OF
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

IS THE JUDICIAL BRANCH whose

JOB IS TO:

1. Maintain law and order (under police)
2. Administer justice on the reservation
3. Interpret laws (federal, state, tribal)



See Navajo Tribal Code
"T.7 § 201 The Judicial Branch of Navajo Government shall consist of the Tribal Court of the Navajo Tribe and the Court of Appeals of the Navajo Tribe."

Its Jurisdiction

Court of Appeals

Chief Justice/2 judges of Trial Courts to hear appeals from final judgements and final orders of the Trial Courts

1. Supervise work of all judges of Navajo Tribe
2. Advise Chairman of Tribal Council
3. Designate a judge to act as Chief Justice in absence of Chief Justice
4. Appoint clerk of Court of Appeals
5. Decide cases to be heard on appeals from Trial Courts

Have Jurisdiction

Trial Courts

7 judges - Appointed by Tribal Chairman and approved by Council

1. Crimes - - - committed on the reservation
2. Civil cases of action - - - Indians on the reservation
3. Domestic relations - - - divorce, adoption, residence requirements
4. Decedents' estates - - - distribution of property of deceased
5. Miscellaneous - - - All other matters in which Navajo Tribal Courts have jurisdiction and which may be placed on courts by resolution of the Tribal Council

Juvenile Court

1 judge with jurisdiction on the Navajo reservation

1. Juveniles who have violated Federal, State or local laws
2. Neglected or dependent children
3. Custody determination
4. Consent to marriages, employment or enlisting in the armed services
5. Mentally ill

And
To
Protect
The
Individual
Rights
Of
Every
Person
Is
THE

Bill of Rights - guarantees basic rights and freedoms

1. Freedom of religion, speech, press, and right of assembly.
2. Right to keep and bear arms
3. No governmental use of houses
4. Rules for searches and seizures
5. No double jeopardy; self incrimination; deprivation of property
6. Outlines rights of accused
7. No cruel and unusual punishment; excessive bail and fines
8. Other rights not impaired - which means that that these rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people

The
Establishment
Of Justice Department
A ——→ NAVAJO TRIBAL LEGAL OFFICE
For Headed by Navajo Attorney General
The
Purpose
Of → Providing legal services for
Navajo Tribal Government
With
A ——→ Director - who is a licensed attorney
Appointed by Chairman and approved by the Tribal Council
To:
1. Direct the Navajo Tribal Legal Office
2. Formulate administrative and operating policies and take necessary action for accomplishing and enforcing policies.
3. Represent the Navajo Tribal Legal Office in executive planning
4. Perform all duties and responsibilities of the office in accordance with the highest standards of legal ethics.
5. Assist members of the Navajo Tribal Council in legal matters.
6. Develop programs and budgets for the Navajo Tribal Legal Department

Became a
Tribal Council
Resolution ——→ on January 26, 1972.

ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

1. Use the Navajo Tribal Code to find out about:
   A. The Treaty of 1850
   B. The Treaty of 1868
   C. Acts of Congress
   D. Executive Orders

2. Find the sections in the Navajo Tribal Code which contain the following titles and complete the activity related to each title.

   A. Great Seal of the Navajo Nation ------- Draw the Great Seal and report to class on the meaning of the different symbols.

   B. Flag of the Navajo Nation ---------- Draw the flag and report to class concerning the description and manner of display.

   C. Use of the term "Navajo Nation" ------ Write a brief history. Use the Navajo Tribal Code as your source.

   D. Spelling of "Navajo" ---------- Write a brief history. Use the Navajo Tribal Code as your source.

   E. Membership in Tribe ---------- Report to class on:
      1. Enrollment procedures
      2. Eligibility
      3. Renunciation of membership
      4. Enrollment screening committee

3. Compare Tribal membership with U.S. Citizenship requirements as stated in your Civics textbook.

4. Elections ---------- Report to class on:
   A. Registration Requirements
   B. Registration Procedures
   C. Transfer Registration

5. Compare Tribal election procedures with those of the State.

6. Tribal Chapters ---------- Write a history of the development of chapters.

7. Imagine that you are a Shiprock Tribal Councilman. Make a list of all the things you would try to do for your community in the following areas:
   A. Community Affairs
   B. Community Facilities
   C. Community Recreation Areas
   D. Raising Funds for Community Purposes

8. Begin an individual/class list of ways the Tribal Government influences your life.

9. Invite Navajo Tribal leaders to class to speak about their role in Tribal Government.

10. Have students prepare questions they might want to ask of:
    A. a council member
    B. a chapter officer
    C. a Tribal judge
    D. a Tribal police officer

11. Visit:
    A. a chapter house
    B. a Tribal court
    C. a Tribal Council session
    D. Window Rock

12. Review Constitutional Rights of Indians - - Tribal Code-1-4 pg. 81
    Describe the responsibilities of citizens in order to preserve rights stated in the Tribal Code.
    Compare these with the Bill of Rights under the U.S. Constitution.

13. Discuss the main responsibilities of the Tribal Chairman.
    Compare these with the roles of the President of the U.S. and the Governor of New Mexico.

14. Discuss the requirements necessary to be elected Chairman of the Navajo Tribal Government.
    Compare these with the President's and Governor's requirements.

15. Find out about programs in the community. Have students research various programs' roles in the community.

16. Have students do library research on the following historical episodes:
    A. Removal Act of 1830
    B. "Trail of Tears"
    C. "Long Walk"
    D. Treaty of 1868
    E. Dawes Act of 1887
    F. "Allotment System"
    G. Citizenship Act of 1934
    H. Reorganization Act of 1934
    I. Past Tribal Chairmen of Navajo Tribal Government

NEWSPAPER WATCH

Using the Navajo Times or the Farmington Daily Times, find news items concerning activities of Tribal Government. Divide items by the branches and departments. Bring to class to display on the bulletin board and use for class discussions.

Keep a close watch on the Department of Interior and its activities. Bring news items to class.

Pre/Post Test for Tribal Government

True or False (30 pts.)

____ 1. Navajo Tribal Government is a system of state government.

____ 2. Its legislative body is made up of 100 members.

____ 3. An important job of the Tribal Council is to keep people aware of the activities of the council.

____ 4. The council meets 2 times a year.

____ 5. The headquarters of Tribal Government are in Window Rock.

____ 6. The most powerful committee of the Tribal Council is the Education Department.

____ 7. The Executive Branch is headed by the Tribal Chairman.

____ 8. A constitution sets forth the powers of the Executive Branch of Tribal Government.

____ 9. Representing the Navajo Nation is one role of the Tribal Chairman.

____10. An important member of the Executive Branch is the Vice-Chairman.

____11. The Judicial Branch of Tribal Government maintains law and order.

____12. There is a 2 term limitation for the Tribal Chairman.

____13. Council members are appointed.

____14. Judges are elected every 4 years.

____15. The Tribal Council appoints judges to the Supreme Court.

Multiple Choice (25 pts.)

____ 1. Which of the following does the Tribal Council have the power to do?
   a. Administer justice on the reservation
   b. Determine policy and procedures for the Dine'
   c. Appoint judges to the Supreme Court
   d. Coordinate all tribal departments

____ 2. The number of council members from each chapter is _____.
   a. 5
   b. variable, according to population
   c. 6
   d. 1

____ 3. The most powerful committee in Tribal Government is the _____.
   a. Education Committee
   b. Resources Committee
   c. Budget and Finance Committee
   d. Advisory Committee

____ 4. The number of Tribal Council delegates is _____ .
   a. 100
   b. 98
   c. 88
   d. 50

____ 5. The present Tribal Chairman is _____.
   a. Chee Dodge
   b. Peterson Zah
   c. Peter McDonald
   d. Paul Jones

VOCABULARY (45 pts.)

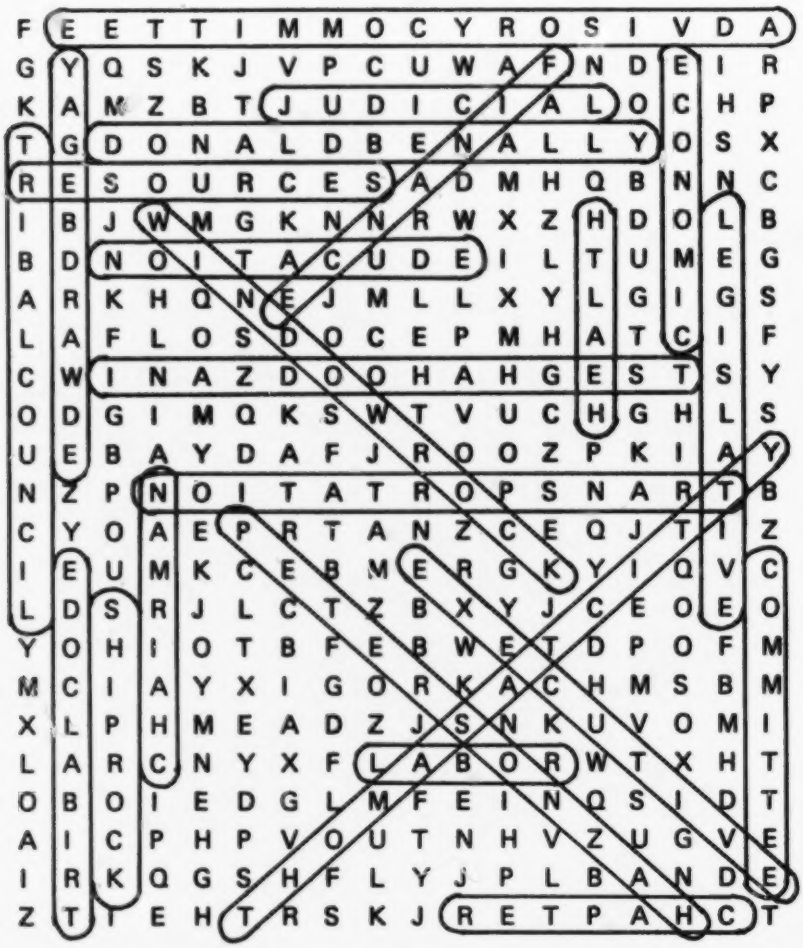
____ 1. Navajo Tribal Code	a. Head of the Navajo Tribal Legal Office
____ 2. Tse'gha'hoodz'ani'	b. Most powerful committee in Tribal Council
____ 3. Tribal Council	c. Protects the personal rights of every individual
____ 4. Advisory Committee	d. Sets forth the powers of Tribal Government
____ 5. Legislative Secretary	e Headquarters of Tribal Government
____ 6. Court of Appeals	f. Responsible for assisting in coordinating the agenda
____ 7. Bill of Rights	g. Legislative body of the Tribal Council
____ 8. Juvenile Court	h. Hears appeals of trial courts
____ 9. Attorney General	i. Hears cases concerning juveniles

WORD SEARCH ON TRIBAL LEADERS AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TERMS

F E E T T I M M O C Y R O S I V D A
G Y Q S K J V P C U W A F N D E I R
K A M Z B T J U D I C I A L O C H P
T G D O N A L D B E N A L L Y O S X
R E S O U R C E S A D M H Q B N N C
I B J W M G K N N R W X Z H D O L B
B D N O I T A C U D E I L T U M E G
A R K H Q N E J M L L X Y L G I G S
L A F L O S D O C E P M H A T C I F
C W I N A Z D O O H A H G E S T S Y
O D G I M Q K S W T V U C H G H L S
U E B A Y D A F J R O O Z P K I A Y
N Z P N O I T A T R O P S N A R T B
C Y O A E P R T A N Z C E Q J T I Z
I E U M K C E B M E R G K Y I Q V C
L D S R J L C T Z B X Y J C E O E O
Y O H I O T B F E B W E T D P O F M
M C I A Y X I G O R K A C H M S B M
X L P H M E A D Z J S N K U V O M I
L A R C N Y X F L A B O R W T X H T
O B O I E D G L M F E I N Q S I D T
A I C P H P V O U T N H V Z U G V E
I R K Q G S H F L Y J P L B A N D E
Z T I E H T R S K J R E T P A H C T

Advisory Committee
Chairman
Chapter
Committee
Donald Benally
Economic
Education
Edward Begay
Executive
Finance
Health
Judicial
Labor
Legislative
Peterson Zah
Resources
Shiprock
Thomas Atcitty
Transportation
Tribal Code
Tribal Council
Tse'ghahoodzani
Window Rock

WORD SEARCH ON TRIBAL LEADERS AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TERMS



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